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The divisions of the book indicate the inclusiveness of the well organized matter: Eskimo Mythology; Conception of Nature; Animal Fables; Epic Tales; Meetings with Foreign Races; Curious Stories; Songs and Dialogues. Each division comprises several chapters.

The style is clear and forceful. Rasmussen indeed is no less an author than explorer and scientist, and as such he is well recognized among his countrymen. To anyone interested in the Eskimos, or the Far North, or the folklore of a passing race this book appeals with double charm; to the casual reader it is interesting, instructive, entertaining. An English rendition entitled "Eskimo Folk-Tales" (London, 1921) is reviewed in the July number of the *Geographical Journal*.

W. ELMER EKBLAW

#### NARRATIVE OF THE SECOND THULE EXPEDITION

**KNUD RASMUSSEN.** *Greenland by the Polar Sea: The Story of the Thule Expedition from Melville Bay to Cape Morris Jesup.* Preface by Admiral Sir Lewis Beaumont. xxiii and 327 pp.; maps, ills., index. Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York, 1921. 10 x 8 inches.

While this English translation of Knud Rasmussen's most ambitious work does not entirely convey the fine spirit of the Danish original, it is nevertheless one of the most noteworthy contributions of this generation to the ever-fascinating field of Arctic exploration and the translators have succeeded in transferring faithfully Rasmussen's picture of the character of the Greenland coast, its scenery, life, and people. The subject matter of the original has for purposes of expediency been condensed and abbreviated, but nothing relevant to the purpose of the book has been omitted.

It will be recalled that the Second Thule Expedition, in reality Rasmussen's fourth Thule expedition, left Denmark in 1916 with primary purpose "to survey and chart the last unknown reach of Greenland's north coast between St. George Fiord and De Long Fiord." Its secondary objects were (1) to prove or disprove that migrations of the Eskimos take place around the northern end of Greenland from the west to the east coasts, long a mooted subject of discussion among the students of Eskimo dispersal; (2) to survey and map geologically the long extent of coast from Sherard Osborn Fiord to Peary Land, which was still blank on the geological map; (3) to keep meteorological records and to collect botanical and zoölogical material. The scientific results are stated in three appendixes (compare "Scientific Results of the Second Thule Expedition to Northern Greenland, 1916-1918," *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 8, 1919, pp. 180-187). The narrative is given in fifteen chapters which lead from the account of the Polar Eskimos, their land and life, the preparations for the long journey along the northwestern coast of Greenland and across the ice cap; through its arduous accomplishment to the homeward journey; and the losing race with death to save the life of the botanist, Dr. Thorild Wulff, the most trying and discouraging part of the trip. The chapter "A Runic Memorial" closes the volume fittingly.

The Second Thule Expedition was daring in plan and faithfully persistent in accomplishment. It is admirably recorded in "Greenland by the Polar Sea."

W. ELMER EKBLAW

#### AN EXPEDITION TO NOVAYA ZEMLYA

**CHARLES BÉNARD.** *Un été chez les Samoyèdes (Juillet-Octobre 1914).* 4th edit. xii and 228 pp.; map, diagrs., ills. Plon-Nourrit & Co., Paris, 1921. 9 fr. 7½ x 5 inches.

In this volume Commandant Bénard, president of the Oceanographical Society of France, tells the story of a visit, cut short by the outbreak of war, to Novaya Zemlya, in 1914. His sojourn of two months and the account of it given here are the sequel of a former expedition (1908) of which a report was published under the title, "Dans l'océan glacial et en Nouvelle-Zembla" (1909). Some of the illustrations to the present volume appeared first in the other.

Commandant Bénard's plan of campaign in 1914 was to proceed to Novaya Zemlya by the Russian steamer which, once a year, in July, used to take provisions to the small Samoyed population of the southern island. Landing at Belusha Couba, near the western extremity of Kostin Strait, the passage which separates Mezhdusharski Island from the southwestern coast of Novaya Zemlya, he was to complete the map of the Strait, "at least

in a descriptive manner," cross Novaya Zemlya in the latitude of the Strait accompanied by a Samoyed with a sledge and a team of dogs, then make for a point, northeast of Goose Land, the peninsula which stretches north from Kostin Strait, by a different route from that followed by Chérynshev (1895). Finally, he was to return to Belusha Couba, crossing Goose Land from north to south. Failure to find dogs enough and a Samoyed willing to accompany him at Belusha Couba resulted in a modification of his plans. He carried out a brief reconnaissance of the Strait in a whaleboat, made a dash on foot and alone across the main island, and returned to Belusha Couba, where he eventually managed to persuade one of the Samoyeds to build for him a light sledge, provide a team of dogs, and accompany him across Goose Land on foot, using the sledge for the conveyance of a tent, surveying apparatus, and provisions.

The principal results of M. Bénard's expedition were to establish the fact that Goose Land is a low-lying plain, innocent of the mountains which have hitherto figured on the map "in fantastic fashion," to add three fiords to the coast line of Kostin Strait, and to ascertain the direction—north and south—of the chains of rugged hills which flank Goose Land on the east, parallel with the chain of the central divide. There is an interesting account and explanation of the nature and the disintegrating effect on the surface of the southern island of the peculiar *bouffettes*, a sort of pustule, as it were, of mud which crop up everywhere among the fractured schists of which the land is principally composed.

The corrections of the existing maps are made almost entirely "in a descriptive manner." There is one small sketch map in the book. It contains no indications of the relief. Few of the places named in the text are marked on the map. A short chapter only, in spite of the title of the book, is devoted to observations on the life and manners of the Samoyeds of the regions visited.

With the limitations indicated, M. Bénard's volume is a welcome contribution to the rather scanty geographical literature of the region. There is a useful discussion of the routes through the Barents and Kara Seas, as conditioned by the prevailing winds, the direction of the currents, and the ice.

H. U. HALL

#### A REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF FRANCE

EMMANUEL DE MARTONNE. *Les régions géographiques de la France.* 190 pp.; maps, diagrs., bibliogr. (Bibliothèque de Culture générale.) Ernest Flammarion, Paris, 1921. 4 frs. 50.  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

France has been the subject of more valuable regional studies than any other country, thanks to the influence of the late Paul Vidal de la Blache, who himself composed the model in his "Tableau." Some of his pupils, as is well known, have applied his method in their studies of a number of the separate regions of France, all of which form admirable treatises. And now one of them, Professor de Martonne, has presented the geography of almost the whole country in an original form and, in doing so, has achieved remarkable success. The publication of this work is of special interest to Americans because it has developed from a series of lectures delivered by M. de Martonne first at Columbia University and later at the Sorbonne, where they were specially designed for foreign students. It is significant that this book, which is real geography from start to finish, finds a place in a "Library of General Culture," to which indeed it is admirably suited. The author has striven—and one may hope has succeeded—to depict and explain "to any cultivated and curious mind" the varied aspect and resources of the soil of France; and the method he has chosen for thus arousing the interest of the general reader could scarcely be bettered.

The author plunges *in medias res* with a description of Paris—its position, site, growth advantages and disadvantages—in the first chapter and follows with successive chapters on the Paris region and basin, Picardy and the Champagne, Lorraine, the Vosges and Alsace, and so on over the most of France. It may be surmised that the reader will thus gain an appreciation of the meaning of geography and will be prepared to fill out the gaps from other sources. This book alone leads to an intelligent appreciation of the varied landscapes of France and of the intimate and manifold associations of land and people in the different contrasted regions; but it gives the reader no idea of the geography of France as a unit. We are left with the feeling that a chapter is lacking which would pull the regions together and sketch the homeland of the French people in lines as decisive and